



**US Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID/Armenia, EGO
Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Amendment No. 1**

Program/Project/Activity Data

Activity/Project Name:		Innovative Agriculture Training and Learning Camp (AGRI CAMP)	
Assistance Objective:		More Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth	
Program Area:		DR.1 Economic Growth	
Country(ies) and/or Operating Unit:		Armenia/E&E	
Originating Office:		Economic Growth Office	Date: May 05, 2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Original IEE/RCE		Original IEE LOP Start Date: FY2023	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IEE/RCE Amendment		New Funding: N/A	
IEE/RCE History	DCN	LOP End Date	Total Funding (\$)
Original IEE/RCE	DCN: 2019-ARM-009	FY2023	\$400,000
Amendment 1	2019-ARM-009-002		
Purpose of Amendment: This Amendment is to: (i) reflect the inclusion of the Component 2 of WoLeRE activity (DCN: 2020-ARM-004) into AGRI CAMP activity; (ii) modify the Component 2 Sub-activity 2.3 “Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems, including provision of small grants for R&D” originally described in IEE (DCN: 2020-ARM-004) for WoLeRE.			
Contract/Award Number (if known):		72011120CA00001	
Sector Type(s) from the ECD Advanced Search Tab (https://ecd.usaid.gov)			
Major: Economic Growth		Minor: None	
Recommended Environmental Determination(s):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion		<input type="checkbox"/> Positive Determination	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative Determination		<input type="checkbox"/> Deferral	
Additional Elements:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions		<input type="checkbox"/> Government to Government	
<input type="checkbox"/> No Conditions		<input type="checkbox"/> Public International Organization (PIO) environmental and social policies and procedures applicable	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Procurement		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Analysis (included)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor Co-Funded		<input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (included) Climate Change Vulnerability Rating: Low/Moderate	

1. Background and Project Description

1.1 Purpose and Scope of IEE:

This Amendment is to: (i) reflect the inclusion of the Component 2 of WoLeRE activity (DCN: 2020-ARM-004) into AGRI CAMP activity; (ii) modify the Component 2 Sub-activity 2.3 “Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems, including provision of small grants for R&D” originally described in IEE (DCN: 2020-ARM-004) for WoLeRE. This additional component is focused on women’s leadership and entrepreneurship in the Armenian agricultural sector by increasing the access of women rural entrepreneurs and business owners to training, financing and market

opportunities. This work will entail technical assistance, research, convening opportunities, and small grants. The environmental determination for this activity is qualified for a negative determination with conditions.

1.2 *Project Description:*

The WoLeRE activity intentionally addresses the gender gaps in the agricultural sector to promote inclusive rural economic development in Armenia. All of the training would be theoretical or classroom-based and not involve demonstrations of equipment or technology outside. The goal of the activity is to advance women's leadership and entrepreneurship in the Armenian agricultural sector. Component 2 of WoLeRE **Women's access to agricultural innovation to raise productivity increased** will be implemented under AGRI CAMP.

The activities under this Component will support the invention, adaptation, and dissemination of new context-relevant technologies to increase growth in agricultural productivity (packaging, labeling, post-harvest handling (refrigerators, dryers etc.) equipment) with a focus on female entrepreneurs and employees. The activities will support female farmers to better evaluate technological opportunities and manage investments in adopting new farm practices and technologies to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their yield, and conserve natural resources. The activity will organize “agrithons” -- a platform bringing agriculture specialists, female rural entrepreneurs, software engineers, and other relevant partners (with a focus on women-owned high-tech companies and women led technical teams) together to pursue productivity and other demand-driven solutions in agriculture. “Agrithons” will help participants improve their understanding of high-tech solutions, promote networking and collaboration, and generate ideas for new tech products and services for women entrepreneurs targeted in Result Area 1. Activities under the Component 2 are:

Sub-activity 1: Assess the need for the new technologies to increase growth in agricultural productivity with a focus on female entrepreneurs and employees. (covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004).

Sub-activity 2: Train women agripreneurs to better evaluate technological opportunities and manage investments in adopting new farm practices and technologies. For the most successful participants, this will be followed by the provision of small grants for business upgrade (packaging, labeling, post-harvest handling (refrigerators, dryers etc.) equipment as well as some office equipment (computers and printers). (covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004).

Sub-activity 3: Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems, including provision of small grants for R&D (covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004), as well as make outdoor improvements of the AgriHub facility and the surrounding land plot owned by ICARE in Proshyan community **(not covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004)**

Sub-activity 4: Organize “agrithons” to generate ideas for new tech products and services to solve productivity and other problems in agriculture. (covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004).

2. Baseline Environmental Information

2.1 *Locations Affected and Environmental Context:*

The activity will be implemented primarily in village Proshyan at Google Map coordinates: 40.253618, 44.423243. Village Proshyan is part of the Nairi municipality, Kotayk region. Elevation above the sea level is 1250 m, distance from the capital city Yerevan is 6 km. The village is located 13 km south-west to Yeghvard, municipal center. Village Proshyan is located on the right side of Yerevan-Ashtarak highway, is bordered by river Kasakh in the west, borders with village Sasunik in the south and with village Ara in the east. Population is mainly occupied in fruit-growing and vine-growing, there is brandy factory in the village. Training and outdoor improvement will take place in the training facility, which is far (Kasakh river, 7km straight line distance) from nearby water objects and environmentally sensitive areas. Therefore, no impact is anticipated due to travel and regional activities on land, climate, groundwater resources, surface water resources, terrestrial communities, aquatic communities, environmental sensitive areas, such as wetlands or protected areas, endangered species, cultural resources, and communities. More details about location and country context are available in the USAID/ARMENIA Foreign Assistance Act 119 Biodiversity Analysis, September 2020, pp. 2-4.

2.2 *Description of Applicable Environmental and Natural Resource Legal Requirements Policies, Laws, and Regulations:*

It is important to note that Armenia has a comprehensive legal framework on environment-related issues through both domestic legislation and international agreements that the country is party to. However, due to low capacity and staffing constraints (e.g., environmental inspectorate), budget constraints, weak data collection and monitoring systems, insufficient feedback and public participation in decision-making, the enforcement of newly developed or updated legislation is a big issue in Armenia. All these reflect a lack of capacity at different levels to efficiently protect and conserve natural resources, and implement sustainable practices in different areas, including agriculture. Limited enforcement of legislation and regulations is one of the root causes of the unsustainable use of resources. The Armenian Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2014) states that all economic and industrial activities are required to obtain clearance from the Ministry of Nature Protection through the satisfactory performance of an Environmental Review and Impact Assessment: i) if they are in one of the following categories A, B or C listed in the law: ii) they are located in a protected area. The Tax Code requires certain polluting organizations and individuals to pay taxes into the State budget for pollution and utilization of natural resources to fund environmental programs throughout the country. Law on environmental education and training of the population has set the environmental standards in education. Under this law continuous environmental education is provided at different levels, including high education. Waste management is the principal issue in the Republic of Armenia (RA), and it is regulated through RA International Agreements, RA Constitution, RA Law on Waste and a number of other legal acts. RA Law on Waste adopted on November 24, 2004 is a key piece of legislation regulating relations on waste collection, storage, transportation, processing, recycling, removal and volume reduction. Land Code of RA regulates land use, specific use of different types of lands, including agricultural land. This activity will also promote environmental considerations in sectorial policies and regulations in agriculture.

2.3 *Environmental Capacity Analysis*

Due to lack of capacity and staffing constraints at the Ministerial level, in many cases decisions are not well-informed and fail to take into account recommendations concerning environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. As of community level - larger communities maintain the in-house capacity to oversee compliance with environmental regulations during the implementation of infrastructure projects, as well as domestic waste collection and disposal and other type of services affecting environment. Typically, special staff is assigned to review the process and provide analytical status reports. If violations occur, the municipality should then take corrective action. Municipalities with larger budgets occasionally outsource environmental analysis to engineering companies, which, along with construction services, maintain experts specializing in environmental regulations. With USAID's and other donors' support, the Ministries of Economy, Nature Protection, Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, as well as local governments have strengthened their capacities to address environmental issues. In particular, USAID-funded EDMC, PRP, ARDI, ATC, RED-NEO and AGRI CAMP activities are instrumental in developing capacities of Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures, as well as capacity of the respective agencies, local governments and communities. There is an opportunity for soil testing in Armenia, which is available through private and public laboratories. The farmers have access to soil testing (the basic testing can be done in Farm Service Centers supported by USG), and most of farmers are interested and doing such testing.

2.4 *Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis*

Climate Risk Screening was based on analysis of the existing climate information from Armenia's risk profile and respective references and the impact upon this project. See Annex A of this IEE for further details of the climate risk screening for the activity. The climate risk analysis was done using the Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool. The implementer shall be responsible for the following to minimize negative impacts of climate change on the success of the program:

1. Exercise flexibility in planning: schedule works in a way to avoid severe weather events for sub-activities 2 and 4;
2. Design the training in a way to address the risk;

3. Incorporate adapting agricultural practices to reduce impacts from climate change;
4. Design the activity in a way to address the risk;
5. Have climate change impacts on agriculture be included in the agrithons.

3. Environmental Impacts and Recommended Mitigation Measures

Component: Women's access to agricultural innovation to raise productivity increased

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(92)(iii), the originator of the proposed project has reviewed the potential environmental impacts of the action summarized in the foregoing IEE. As per section *1.2 Program Description* of this document, different type of activities will be provided under the component added to AGRI CAMP, the types of activities are specified under the first column of the below table. Most of the activities outlined below are not going to have adverse impact but some activities, like provision of equipment and computers to beneficiaries or outdoor improvements of the AgriHub facility (terracing the land plot, tiling the area in front of the building and installation of light poles in the area) are anticipated to have some negative effect.

Sub-activities	Potential Impacts	Mitigation Measures	Recommended Threshold Determinations
Sub-activity 1: Assess the need for the new technologies to increase growth in agricultural productivity with a focus on female entrepreneurs and employees.	None anticipated	N/A	Categorical Exclusion
Sub-activity 2: Train women agripreneurs to better evaluate technological opportunities and manage investments in adopting new farm practices and technologies. For the most successful participants, this will be followed by the provision of small grants for business upgrade (packaging, labeling, post-harvest handling (refrigerators, dryers etc.) equipment as well as some office equipment (computers and printers).	Provision of grants (i.e., equipment and computers) to beneficiaries may have some negative effect should equipment and computers not be used properly and be disposed in an unsustainable manner	<p>USAID will provide targeted training on proper use and disposal of equipment with applicable Armenian and EU best practices on waste management standards to ensure that the beneficiaries recycle the equipment and/or its parts in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. The provided equipment should be energy efficient. All training shall comply with Armenian government directives regarding COVID -19 control, including social distances and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) No EMMP or ERC is required. However, the implementer shall provide to the MEO a list of equipment to be given to women entrepreneurs and training modules that includes information on proper use and disposal, as applicable. The implementer shall use the Simplified Environmental Review Form for Procurement (Procurement SERF) available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OSNpA4ezn4hln-DOz5RKo3Ez9oWUmGpd/view</p> <p>All equipment shall be installed by trained and certified technicians according to manufacturer's specifications, as applicable. Training on safe use shall be provided as needed. Equipment shall be of good quality and purchase from reputable vendors.</p> <p>If equipment includes refrigerators or other cooling storage systems, the refrigerant gas used shall comply with applicable Armenian, EU and US EPA regulations. MEO shall advise on this matter. No pesticides shall be provided.</p>	Negative Determination

<p>Sub-activity 3: Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems, including provision of small grants for R&D, as well as make outdoor improvements of the AgriHub facility and the surrounding land plot owned by ICARE in Proshyan community</p>	<p>R&D and innovations may have some negative effects should equipment and computers not be properly used and disposed. Provision of grants (i.e., equipment and computers) to beneficiaries may have some negative effect should lab equipment and computers not be used properly and be disposed in an unsustainable manner.</p> <p>Outdoor improvement may have some negative effects in case of: use of improper equipment and materials; improper waste management; improper precaution measures to ensure prevention of fires; not limiting production of dust during the work; noise levels exceeding the requirements of sanitary norms.</p>	<p>USAID will provide targeted training on proper use and disposal of equipment, if any, with applicable Armenian and EU best practices on waste management standards to ensure that the beneficiaries recycle the equipment and/or its parts in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner. All events shall comply with Armenian government directives regarding COVID-19 control, including social distances and use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).</p> <p>EMMP and ERC are required for the outdoor improvement of the training facility (AgriHub). The implementer shall provide to the MEO the draft EMMP/ERC for review and approval. Sample EMMPs for many types of projects/activities are available at https://sites.google.com/a/usaid.gov/ecos/bureau/europe-eurasia/ee-001-beo-backstopping/ee-reg-216-templates-and-sample-emmps.</p>	<p>Negative Determination</p>
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Sub-activity 4: Organize “agrithons” to generate ideas for new tech products and services to solve productivity and other problems in agriculture. (covered by DCN: 2020-ARM-004).	None Anticipated	N/A	Categorical exclusion
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4. Conclusions of the Environmental Review

4.1 Recommended Environmental Determinations:

Categorical Exclusion:

A categorical exclusion is recommended for the following sub-activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

- Sub-activity 1: Assess the need for the new technologies to increase growth in agricultural productivity with a focus on female entrepreneurs and employees under §216.2(c)(2) (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings.
- Sub-activity 4: Organize “agrithons” to generate ideas for new tech products and services to solve productivity and other problems in agriculture under §216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

Negative Determination:

A negative determination is recommended for the following sub-activities under §216.3(a)(2)(iii). Additional specific terms and conditions are presented below in Section 4.2.

- Sub-activity 2: Train women agripreneurs to better evaluate technological opportunities and manage investments in adopting new farm practices and technologies. For the most successful participants, this will be followed by the provision of small grants for business upgrade (packaging, labeling, post-harvest handling (refrigerators, dryers etc.) equipment as well as some office equipment (computers and printers) requires No EMMP or ERC is required. However, the implementer shall provide to the MEO a list of equipment to be given to women entrepreneurs and training modules that includes information on proper use and disposal, as applicable. Under §216.3(a)(2)(iii).
- Sub-activity 3: Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems, including provision of small grants for R&D, as well as outdoor improvements of the AgriHub facility and the surrounding land plot owned by ICARE in Proshyan community requires an ERC/EMMP for outdoor improvement of the training facility under §216.3(a)(2)(iii).

4.2 Negative Determination Terms and Conditions:

4.2.1 For sub-activities 2 and 3 (except outdoor improvement under the sub-activity 3) the intervention must build awareness providing training around environmental, health and safety best practices for equipment and hardware use and disposal to ensure that beneficiaries will procure, use and dispose the granted equipment in a sustainable manner. **No EMMP/ERC are required.** However, the implementer shall provide to the MEO a list of equipment to be given to women entrepreneurs and training modules that includes information

on proper use and disposal, as applicable. MEO shall review. All equipment shall be installed by trained and certified technicians according to manufacturer's specifications, as applicable. Training on safe use shall be provided as needed. Equipment shall be of good quality and purchase from reputable vendors. If equipment includes refrigerators or other cooling storage systems, the refrigerant gas used shall comply with applicable Armenian, EU and US EPA regulations. MEO shall advise. No pesticides shall be provided. The training materials shall be captured in the IP annual work plans, when applicable, and therefore budgeted for and reviewed by the AOR/Activity Manager for adequacy.

4.2.2 For outdoor improvement of the training facility in the area of AgriHub (R&D) under the sub-activity 3 the ERC and EMMP are required. The implementer shall provide to the MEO the draft EMMP/ERC for review and approval. Sample EMMPs for many types of projects/activities are available at <https://sites.google.com/a/usaaid.gov/ecos/bureau/europe-eurasia/ee-001-beo-backstopping/ee-reg-216-templates-and-sample-emmps>.

4.2.3 Preparation of environmental review documents shall be captured in annual work plans, and therefore budgeted for and reviewed for adequacy at least annually.

4.2.4 Changes in activities and their associated environmental reviews shall necessitate amending the IEE.

4.3 USAID Monitoring and Reporting

4.3.1 The AOR/COR, with the support of the MEO, is responsible for monitoring compliance of activities by means of desktop reviews and site visits.

4.3.2 The AOR/COR is responsible for confirming that the IP includes environmental compliance requirements and monitoring results as part of their routine project reporting to USAID.

4.3.3 If at any time the project is found to be out of compliance with the IEE, the AOR/COR or MEO shall immediately notify the BEO.

4.3.4 A summary report of Mission's compliance relative to this IEE shall be sent to the BEO on an annual basis, normally in connection with preparation of the Mission's annual environmental compliance report required under ADS 203.3.8.5 and 204.3.3.

4.3.5 The BEO or his/her designated representative may conduct site visits or request additional information for compliance monitoring purposes to ensure compliance with this IEE, as necessary.

4.4 Implementing Partner (IP) Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

4.4.1 If an individual activity is found to pose significant adverse environmental effects that have not been identified and addressed in the approved environmental review documents, new environmental review documents shall be developed to include environmental safeguards for such effects.

4.4.2 IPs shall report on environmental compliance requirements and monitoring results as part of their routine project reporting to USAID.

4.4.3 After the IP has finalized its activities at a specific site, the IP shall sign a Record of Compliance certifying that the organization met all applicable conditions and submit it to the COR/AOR. The COR/AOR shall keep the original for the project files and provide a copy to the MEO and BEO. The ROC shall be assigned a DCN and posted to the ECD.

5. Mandatory Inclusion of Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets and Workplans

5.1 Appropriate environmental compliance language, including limitations defined in Section 6, shall be incorporated into solicitations and awards for this activity and projects budgets shall provide for adequate funding and human resources to comply with requirements of this IEE.

5.2 Solicitations shall include Statements of Work with tasks for meeting environmental compliance requirements and appropriate evaluation criteria.

5.3 Environmental mitigation and monitoring requirements, when available, shall also be included in solicitations and awards.

5.4 The IP shall incorporate conditions set forth in this IEE into their annual work plans.

5.5 The IP shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as limitations, as defined in Section 6.

5.6 The USAID Mission will include an indicator for environmental compliance as part of the project's performance monitoring plan. (For example, if an IEE has a threshold determination of negative determination, then a possible indicator is if the IP complied with the ERC/EMMP.)

6. Limitations of the IEE: This IEE does not cover activities (and therefore should changes in scope implicate any of the issues/activities listed below, a BEO-approved amendment shall be required), that:

6.1 Normally have a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d)(1), including:

- Programs of river basin development;
- Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and impoundments;
- Agricultural land leveling;
- Drainage projects;
- Large scale agricultural mechanization;
- New lands development;
- Resettlement projects;
- Penetration road building or road improvement projects;
- Powerplants;
- Industrial plants;
- Potable water and sewerage projects other than those that are small scale.

6.2 Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);

6.3 Affect endangered and threatened species or their critical habitats per §216.5, FAA 118, FAA 119;

6.4 Provide support to extractive industries (e.g., mining and quarrying);

6.5 Promote timber harvesting per FAA 117 and 118;

6.6 Lead to new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;

6.7 Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;

6.8 Provide support for regulatory permitting;

6.9 Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;

6.10 Research, testing, or use of genetically engineered organisms except in accordance with ADS 211; or

6.11 Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials per §216.2(e) and §216.3(b). Pesticides (cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act); and

7. Revisions

7.1 Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the IEE might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their adverse effect significant, this environmental threshold decision will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID COR/AOR to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this IEE.

8. Environmental Threshold Decision Clearances:**Approval:**


John G. Alleto, Mission Director

05/18/2022

Date

Haikanush
Bagratunyan

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Bagratunyan
Date: 2022.05.13 14:59:42 +04'00'

Haikanush Bagratunyan, Alternate AOR

Date

Arthur Drampyan

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Artur Drampyan, Mission Environmental Officer

Date

Concurrence:

POOJAN BHASKER
TRIPATHI (affiliate)

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Poojan Tripathi, Bureau Environmental Officer
USAID Europe and Eurasia Bureau

Date

Distribution:

- Activity File
- AOR/COR
- MEO
- BEO
- ECD

Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool

1: Components or Sub-activities	2: Time-frame and Geography	3: Climate Risks*	4: Climate Risk Rating*	5: How Climate Risks are Addressed in the Activity*	6: Accepted Climate Risks*
Sub-activity 1: Assess the need for the new technologies to increase growth in agricultural productivity with a focus on female entrepreneurs and employees	2020-2023	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A
Sub-activity 2: Train women agripreneurs to better evaluate technological opportunities and manage investments in adopting new farm practices and technologies	2020-2023	N/A	Moderate	Exercise flexibility in planning, Schedule works in a way to avoid severe weather events, and design the training in a way to address the risk	N/A
Sub-activity 3: Promote engagement of women students of the ANAU in agricultural research and development (R&D) and innovation systems	2020-2023	N/A	Low	Incorporate adapting agricultural practices to reduce impacts from climate change	N/A
Sub-activity 4: Organize “agrithons” to generate ideas for new tech products and services to solve productivity and other problems in agriculture	2020-2023	N/A	Moderate	Schedule works in a way to avoid severe weather events, and design the activity in a way to address the risk Have climate change impacts on agriculture be included in the agrithons	N/A

* means a required element, according to the Mandatory Reference